REMARKS

Claims 1, 7, 10, 13, 14, and 17-19 have been amended, and claim 9 has been canceled. As such, claims 1, 3-8, 10-19, 21, and 22 are currently pending in the case. Further examination and reconsideration of the presently claimed application are respectfully requested.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 1 and 3-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,373,940 to Shaffer et al (hereinafter referred to as "Shaffer") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,360,222 to Quinn (hereinafter referred to as "Quinn") as well as over Shaffer in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,903,632 to Brandon (hereinafter referred to as "Brandon"). Claims 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Quinn in view of Shaffer. To establish a *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 U.S.P.Q. 580 (C.C.P.A. 1974), MPEP 2143.03. Obviousness cannot be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention, absent some teaching or suggestion or incentive to do so. *In re Bond*, 910 F. 2d 81, 834, 15 USPQ2d 1566, 1568 (Fed. Cir. 1990). None of the cited art teaches or suggests all limitations of claims 1, 3-8, 10-19, 21 and 22, some distinctive limitations of which are set forth in more detail below. Accordingly, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

None of the cited art teaches or suggests an electronic communications device having a storage medium with program instructions which are executable by a processor for receiving an electronic notification of a directory entry change and automatically updating the directory entry upon receipt of an accept command generated by a user of the device. Amended claim 1 recites:

> An electronic communications device comprising: a processor; and a storage medium comprising program instructions executable by the processor for: receiving an electronic notification of a change to a directory entry stored within the electronic communications device, wherein the electronic notification is associated with an identifier, a category heading, and an altered value; presenting the electronic notification to a user of the electronic communications device; and automatically updating the directory entry to include the altered value upon receipt of an acceptance command generated by the user.

Support for the limitations of claim 1 may be found, for example, on page 23, lines 9-28:

The device described herein is also adapted to receive transferred directory entries from other devices as is the device described herein is able to transfer entries to external devices. This process is outlined within the flowchart of Fig. 6. The entry receipt process starts with step 60 and moves to step 190, wherein one or more transferred directory entries, subsets or sets from another device are presented to the user, along with an acceptance prompt to either accept or decline the transfer of entries. ... If an acceptance command is received at step 192, then step 194 leads to step 196, wherein a subset or set within the directories is selected as the destination site for the transferred entries. As before, step 198 presents a prompt to the user to transfer the entries to the destination subset or set, step 200 receives either a confirmation command or rejection command, and step 202 directs the process route based on the command received in step 200. ... If a confirmation command is received at step 200, the process continues to step 186 to transfer the selected entries to the received destination.

Shaffer teaches a system for transmitting address changes between source communication devices and destination communication devices. Shaffer, however, fails to teach or suggest having a user of a destination communication device generate an acceptance command to automatically update a directory entry in response to a receipt of a message outlining a change to the directory entry as recited in claim 1. Instead, Shaffer teaches the destination telephones are "equipped with a processing unit that is programmed to recognize the message as a new number message and to read from the message the old telephone number and new telephone number. After reading the new number message, the destination telephone updates its speed dial memory 74 or record in the database 76 with the new telephone number." (column 3, lines 14-20). Such a process appears to be automatic, since there is no teaching or suggestion of user involvement to activate the transfer of new telephone numbers.

Furthermore, there is no motivation within Shaffer to have users activate updates of directory entries (i.e., generate an acceptance command) in response to the receipt of electronic notifications of updates, since Shaffer specifically teaches the signaling messages indicating address changes may include "... some security or authorization code to prevent unauthorized modifications of another party's telephone memory." (column 3, lines 22-24). Having such a security or authorization code would negate the need for the user of the device to accept or deny an update to a directory. In addition, Shaffer teaches sending a message to the destination device subsequent to updating the directory to inform the user of the device that the directory has been automatically updated with a new number. Such a message would not necessarily be needed if the user were involved in the acceptance of the change prior to updating the directory entry.

In an alternative embodiment for updating an address change within a destination communication device, Shaffer teaches sending an update message via voicemail or email asking the user of the device to manually update the directory entry (see column 4, lines 24-25). Such a process does not meet the limitations of claim 1, since the directory entry is not automatically updated.

Neither Quinn nor Brandon teach or suggest an electronic communications device which is adapted to update a directory entry upon receipt of an electronic notification and, therefore, cannot be combined with Shaffer to teach the limitations of claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is asserted to be patentably distinct over the cited art.

None of the cited art teaches or suggests receiving an electronic notification of a change to a directory entry stored within an electronic communications device, wherein the electronic notification is associated with an identifier, category heading and an altered value. Such a limitation is included in claim 1, as noted above, and is also included in independent claims 21 and 22. Although Quinn and Brandon teach organizing entry values of directory entries using different fields, Quinn and Brandon do not teach or suggest receiving electronic notifications of directory entry changes in such a format. In addition, there is no teaching or suggestion within Shaffer of formatting the address change messages described therein in such a manner. In particular, there is no teaching or suggestion within Shaffer to include category headings within the address change message described therein, much less category headings which would match fields of the data structure in which the directory entry is organized as recited in claims 21 and 22. Consequently, none of the cited art teaches the limitations of claims 1, 21 and 22.

In addition, there is no motivation to combine the cited art to teach the limitations of claims 1, 21 and 22. In particular, there is no motivation within Shaffer to include a category heading within the address change messages described therein because Shaffer only teaches updating certain types of address information for particular devices. More specifically, Shaffer only teaches updating telephone number entries within directories of telephones and facsimile machines and only teaches updating e-mail and IP addresses within directory entries of computer systems. Since the types of address changes taught in Shaffer are specific to the devices which the messages are transferred to and from, there is no need to categorize an altered entry value within an address change message. As noted above, neither Quinn nor Brandon teach or suggest receiving electronic notifications of directory entry changes, much less in a format including a category heading. Without any teaching or suggestion within the cited art to include

category headings in electronic notifications of directory entries changes, there is no motivation to teach the limitations of claims 1, 21, or 22. Consequently, claims 1, 21 and 22 are asserted to be patentably distinct from the cited art.

None of the cited art teaches or suggests receiving an electronic notification indicating a change to a directory entry and matching a field heading associated with a data structure of the directory entry with a category heading of the electronic notification. Claim 21 recites in part:

> A method for allowing an update of a directory entry within an electronic communications device upon receipt of an electronic notification, said method comprising: receiving said electronic notification indicating that at least a portion of the directory entry has changed to an altered value; ... matching a field heading associated with the data structure of the directory entry with a category heading of said electronic notification ...

Claim 22 includes similar limitations for program instructions of an electronic communications device storage medium.

Although Quinn and Brandon teach searching directory entries within an electronics communication device for certain directory entries, there is no teaching or suggestion within Quinn or Brandon of searching directory entries to match criteria specified in an electronic notification of a change to a directory entry. In addition, Shaffer fails to disclose searching directory entries to match criteria specified in the address change messages described therein. Consequently, not only does the cited art not teach, suggest or provide motivation to include a category heading within an electronic notification, none of the cited art teaches matching category headings of electronic notifications with fields of a data structure in which a directory entry is organized as recited in claims 21 and 22. Since none of the cited art teaches searching directory entries to match criteria specified in an electronic notification of a change to a directory entry, there is no motivation within the cited art to teach such a limitation. Accordingly, none of the cited art teaches, suggests or provides motivation to teach the limitations of claims 21 and 22.
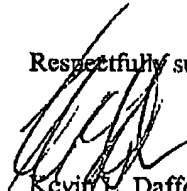
For at least the reasons set forth above, none of the cited art teaches, suggests or provides motivation to teach the limitations of claims 1, 21, and 22. Therefore, claims 1, 21, and 22, as well as claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct over the cited art. Claim 9 has been canceled rendering rejection thereto moot. Accordingly, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

This response constitutes a complete response to all issues raised in the Office Action mailed February 27, 2004. The prior art made of record but not relied upon is not considered pertinent to the presently claimed case. In view of the remarks traversing the rejections, Applicants assert that pending claims 1, 3-8, 10-19, 21, and 22 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, comments, or suggestions, the undersigned attorney earnestly requests a telephone conference.

No fees are required for filing this amendment; however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Conley Rose, P.C. Deposit Account No. 03-2769/5468-05000.

Respectfully submitted,

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